

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 03586 020905Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ACDA-07 /077 W

-----020908Z 091109 /21

P 020758Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3601

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3586

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM PINT KS

SUBJ: UNIVERSITY SPY RING CASE

REF: SEOUL 3364 AND PREVIOUS

1. DR. KIMIO KAWAKUBO OF OSAKA AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CALLED ON EMBOFF MAY 2. HE EXPLAINED THAT JAPAN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WAS INTERESTED IN STUDENTS WHO HAD BEEN CONVICTED BY ROKG FOR ESPIONAGE. HE GAVE EMBOFF ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAMPHLET ENTITLED "PARK'S PAWNS - OVERSEAS KOREANS IN KCIA COURTS". HE SAID PAMPHLET AND NEWS OF HIS ORGANIZATION'S INTEREST IN STUDENTS HAD BEEN SENT TO FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE U.S. TO ENLIST SUPPORT ON SUTDENTS' BEHALF. HE SAID PAMPHLET CALLED INTO QUESTION VALIDITY OF ALL STUDENT SPY CASES, BUT THAT, IN FACT, HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES DID NOT KNOW WHETHER SOME OR ALL CASES WERE BONA FIDE OR NOT. HE INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT DEATH PENALTIES WERE UNREASONABLE SENTENCES, FOR, EVEN IF STUDENTS WERE SPIES, THEY HAD BEEN ARRESTED BEFORE THEY HAD DONE ANY GREAT DAMAGE TO ROKG. IN ADDITION, HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES THOUGHT CAPITAL PUNISHMENT WAS INHUMANE FOR ANY OFFENSE.

2. DR. KAWAKUBO WENT OVER LIST OF DEATH PENALTIES WITH EMBOFF. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT KWON CHONG-HON, HE WROTE NAME IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 03586 020905Z

CHINESE CHARACTERS, AND EMBASSY KOREAN LOCAL EMPLOYEE PRONOUNCED NAME AS KANG CHONG-HUN.

3. HIS LIST INCLUDED YI CHOL. WE KNOW YI CHOL IS FACING DEATH PENALTY FOR SPYING BUT OUR RECORDS DO NOT CONNECT HIM WITH KIM CHOL-HYUN RING. WE EXPECT TO HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION ON YI CHOL'S CASE AND HIS CONNECTION

WITH VARIOUS OTHER SPY RING CASES BY EARLY NEXT WEEK.
BY THAT TIME WE MAY ALSO HAVE MORE INFORMATION ON
POSSIBILITY OF COMMUTATION OF HIS SENTENCE.
SNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ESPIONAGE, INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, STUDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL03586
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770152-1170
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197705103/aaaadlpw.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3037e287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SEOUL 3364
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2330207
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNIVERSITY SPY RING CASE
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3037e287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009